



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 10, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. EPC to meet on Tuesday in August**
- 2. DNR reminds animal producers to send in soil sample results soon**
- 3. Crop and livestock producers, test soils this fall for the P index**
- 4. DNR unveils new online resource to evaluate soil and groundwater**

EPC TO MEET ON TUESDAY IN AUGUST

DES MOINES – Contracts and information about proposed rules are the main items on the Aug. 15 agenda for the monthly meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

Commissioners will meet on Tuesday in August, a departure from their usual Monday meetings.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the DNR Air Quality Building, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The full agenda is as follows:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Director's Remarks

Contract – Region XII Council of Governments – Iowa Waste Exchange Program

Contract – Iowa Waste Reduction Center – Iowa Waste Exchange Program

Contract - Dam Breach Analysis & Survey Data – VJ Engineering

Contract – Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Services – University of Iowa Hygienic Lab

Final Rule – Chapters 68 “Commercial Septic Tank Cleaners,” and 69 “Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems”

Final Rule – Chapters 20, 22 and 33, Air Quality Program Rules – Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) rules

Notice of Intended Action – Amend IAC 567 Chapter 118– “Discarded Appliance Demanufacturing”

Notice of Intended Action – Adopt IAC 567 Chapter 215 – “Mercury Switch Recovery from End-of-Life Vehicles”

Referrals to the Attorney General

- Dyersville Implement, Inc. (Dyersville) – Wastewater
- Robert Miller (Batavia) – Solid Waste / Air Quality / Wastewater
- City of Des Moines / Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority – Wastewater
- Higman Sand and Gravel, Inc. (Plymouth County) – Flood Plain Development / Water Use / Wastewater

Proposed Rule – Amend IAC Chapter 567-11 “Tax Certification of Pollution Control or Recycling Property”

Proposed Rule – rescind 567-Chapter 113 “Sanitary Landfills: Municipal Solid Waste” and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof as 567-Chapter 113 “Sanitary Landfills for Municipal Solid Waste: Groundwater Protection Systems for the Disposal of Non-Hazardous Wastes”

Proposed Rule—Rescind 567 IAC Chapter 47, Private Well Sampling, Rehabilitation, and Closure—Grants To Counties

Proposed Rule – Chapter 43 – Water Supplies – Design and Operation

Monthly Reports

General Discussion

- Review of current commission meeting day
- Petition for Rulemaking of Chapter 65

Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Jerry Peckumn, chair, Jefferson; Francis Thicke, vice chair, Fairfield; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine and Darrell Hanson, Manchester. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

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**DNR REMINDS ANIMAL PRODUCERS TO SEND IN SOIL
SAMPLE RESULTS SOON**

DES MOINES – Current soil test results are needed for confinement producers who are already using the phosphorus index for their manure management plans, but used soil samples that did not meet minimum requirements.

“Some producers used soil samples taken in the last four years to run the P index,” said Cindy Martens, who coordinates manure management plans for the DNR. “That’s fine, if they meet the minimum requirements.

“But if they don’t, the producer must re-sample the field using a method that meets the minimum requirements,” said Martens. “Those samples must be taken within one year after the original manure management plan was sent in.”

Martens recommends that poultry and livestock producers who need updated samples should take the soil samples this fall before fertilizer or manure is applied to the field.

When the MMP annual plan update is due, producers should send the soil sample results, the new soil loss calculations (RUSLE2 detailed report) and the new P index calculations to the local DNR field office.

For more information, contact Cindy Martens at (712) 262-4177.

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CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS, TEST SOILS THIS FALL FOR THE P INDEX

DES MOINES – Confinement site producers who aren’t using the phosphorus or P index to develop their required manure management plans (MMP) should plan now and soil sample this fall to incorporate the P index into their MMPs.

Crop producers who accept manure from confinements that need manure management plans may also want to talk to their manure provider about how the P index could affect manure application on their land and if they need to have soil samples taken.

Producers can use soil samples taken in the last four years to run the P index, if they meet the minimum requirements.

“About 1400 manure management plans will have to be updated between September 2006 and August 2007 to include the P index,” said Jeremy Klatt, a nutrient specialist with the DNR. “This fall is the ideal time to take the soil samples necessary to do this.”

Klatt recommended sampling soils for phosphorus and acidity (pH) right after harvest and before any fall fertilizer or manure application. Sampling after fertilizer or manure application may not give an accurate representation of the nutrient status of the field,” he said.

Producers can sample soils using any credible method, but should take at least one sample for every 10 acres of the field. Generally, Iowa State University's soil sampling recommendations should be followed.

Klatt said that many confinement producers will need to use the P index starting with their first annual MMP update after August 25 this fall. The remainder of confinement producers will need to use the P index starting in September of 2008.

Producers must submit a complete MMP using the Phosphorus index for each field in the MMP once every four years. The complete MMP and soil loss calculations (detailed RUSLE2 report) and P Index calculations must be sent to the local DNR field office.

The DNR will not be granting exemptions or extensions of the deadlines for the P index-based plans. See the DNR Web site for a timeline or more information about the P index: <http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus> or http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/files/pindex_fs.pdf.

Check the Iowa State University soil fertility Web site for information about soil sampling at extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/. Finally, more information about the P index can be found in current and back issues of Odor and Nutrient Management at the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/pubsnl.html>.

For more information, contact Jeremy Klatt at 641-424-4073.

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DNR UNVEILS NEW ONLINE RESOURCE TO EVALUATE SOIL AND GROUNDWATER

Web-based "Risk Calculator" will help gauge exposure risk to pollutants

DES MOINES — A new web-based application from the DNR allows scientists, environmental consultants and the public to easily compute health risks from exposure to specific soil, air and groundwater contaminants.

"Environmental consultants, land developers and property owners often have information from environmental investigations about chemical concentrations found in the air, soil or groundwater," said Bob Drustrup, an environmental engineer with the DNR. "They can be unsure of what risk these concentrations really pose, or if it is really a risk at all, and that's where our new web resource can help."

The DNR developed the web application to assist in the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties through the DNR's Land Recycling Program (LRP). According to Iowa law, the LRP contains specific statewide standards that represent contaminant concentrations at which normal, unrestricted exposure is considered unlikely to pose a threat to human health, safety or the environment.

The “risk calculator” includes a look-up table of statewide standards for specific chemicals. In addition, the online tool computes the risk of exposure from any chemicals found in soil, air, or groundwater, or combinations of the three.

“As an example, the risk calculator can determine what risk multiple heavy metals in soil — such as arsenic, cadmium or lead — would have on a site resident with long-term exposure, a site worker with less exposure, or a short-term construction worker,” said Drustrup. “You can use the risk calculator within the LRP as part of an agreed procedure to evaluate contamination, and to determine the need for cleanup or other action. It can also be used as a general guideline for evaluating contamination outside of the LRP.”

Drustrup cautioned that the DNR developed the risk calculator for use with the LRP. “The DNR will ultimately review all the data for a specific site to determine if cleanup or other action is warranted. Outside of the LRP, this new tool might be used as guidance,” said Drustrup. “But generally, we recommend consultation with the DNR before anyone dismisses the risk of a contamination issue.”

The DNR developed this online application in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All statewide standards and action levels for chemical concentrations were adopted from federal and state guidelines or procedures for protection of public health and the environment.

To access the online risk calculator and table of statewide standards, go to:
www.iowadnr.com/land/consites/riskcalc.html

For more information, contact Bob Drustrup at (515) 281-8900 or
bob.drustrup@dnr.state.ia.us